

PENSION POINTERS.

Inquiries Answered and Suggestions Made.

All communications for this column should be accompanied by the true name and correct address of the inquirer. The reply, however, will be marked "anonymous" if desired. No attention will be given to anonymous inquiries. If no reply is printed within three weeks, write again.

J. W. M. Perry, Mo.—The "law of July 14, 1862," is generally referred to as the general pension law, covering cases arising from service since March 4, 1861, not including cases under act of June 27, 1890. The rates of invalid pension under the general law have been raised from time to time by numerous additional laws, rulings and decisions since enacted or rendered.

D. C. Bator Rouse, La.—A widow would not be entitled to pension under the act of June 27, 1890, if married to the soldier after June 26, 1890; but if it can be shown by satisfactory evidence that the soldier's death was due to the service, and the widow, she can obtain pension under the general law without regard to the date of marriage.

A. R. F. Townville, Pa.—For arrears of pay, etc., of a deceased soldier, application should be made to the Auditor for the War Department, Washington, D. C. The pay of a private is \$13 per month.

A. E. G. St. Paul, St. Paul, Minn.—On application to the Quartermaster General, U. S. A., at Washington, an allowance of \$35 may be obtained toward the expenses of burial of deceased soldiers of the Spanish-American war. See reply to A. H. F. above.

J. H. B. Balztown, Ky.—See reply to the Pension Bureau. The pension claims of the soldiers and sailors of the Spanish-American war and their heirs come under the general law. There were some changes made in the Bureau of Review of the Pension Bureau by the present Commissioner of Pensions. The Board is generally not over a month in arrears with its work. It is within the discretion of the Commissioner to distribute the employees under his charge as he deems proper. The Board of Pension Appeals of the Interior Department is over six months in arrears in most classes of appeals.

C. L. W. Roseburg, Ore.—It is evident that since your case was referred to the special examination in your case was completed, it has been determined on a review of the case that further special examination is necessary. The final action. An appeal would not be considered by the Secretary of the Interior until the Pension Bureau has rendered a decision. There is probably nothing that can be done at this time but to await the conclusion of the special examination.

W. L. Lebanon, Ill.—If your claim for increase has been on file for months, you should have been ordered for medical examination long ere this. An inquiry filed in the Pension Bureau by your attorney, or by yourself, if made in proper form, should secure action. When claimants are in destitute circumstances, and the facts are shown by the sworn statement of the claimant, and of at least one other person, it is possible to have the claim made special.

A. E. England, Va.—Your reference to a bill introduced in Congress by Senator Gallinger is not understood. As to your claim for increase, see reply to W. L. above.

J. A. M. Lynn, Mass.—Increase of pension on pensioned disability commences from the date of medical examination had under the claimant's name.

J. L. M. Delphi, Ind.—If for any reason a pension claimant believes that he cannot obtain justice at the hands of the Pension Bureau, he may file his protest and objections with the Commissioner of Pensions. How effective such action may be would depend upon the character of the objections.

A. O. Grandview, Va.—When an appeal has been filed in due form with the Secretary of the Interior, the pension docket number, and its receipt acknowledged. If you filed what you intended as an appeal, and received no acknowledgment, it would seem that your letter has not been regarded as an appeal, and has been referred to the Commissioner of Pensions.

F. H. W. Berkshire Center, Vt.—When a pensioner is not in prison, and is not under guardianship as insane, he alone may lawfully draw his pension. No pension could not be drawn by someone else with or without his knowledge and consent. Report the facts to the Commissioner of Pensions.

H. C. Logansport, Ind.—It is impracticable to furnish you with a copy of the pension act of July 14, 1862. It is embodied in the Revised Statutes, being the first of many important pension laws enacted since March 4, 1861. If you state what you wish to ascertain, the information can probably be given.

Jack-of-the-Dust.—Men enlisting in the navy after June 30, 1864, were entitled to the same bounty as that allowed for enlistments in the military service during the same period. No bounty was allowed for naval enlistments after June 30, 1865.

P. C. Rossburg.—None of the recommendations of Commissioner Evans have as yet been enacted into law by Congress.

J. E. Fryburg Center, Me.—A member of Congress cannot by merely calling up a rejected claim have it reopened. "Influence" does not take the place of evidence. Your claim is not necessarily dead because a considerable period has elapsed since rejection.

J. B. Mt. Vernon, Ill.—There is no fixed rate of invalid pension for loss of teeth by injury.

J. G. San Antonio, Tex.—The present Administration agrees with the last Administration in holding that service under any circumstances in the Confederate army or navy is practically conclusive evidence of disloyalty, and bars such claimants from pension under the act of June 27, 1890, though they may claim and obtain pension under the general law or disability incurred in the Union service. The matter rests upon a construction of law, to which the Harrison Administration gave a more favorable interpretation.

C. W. Ascalon, Mo.—There is no way of compelling persons to give testimony in a pension case, unless the Pension Bureau should deem a special investigation necessary, when witnesses may be subpoenaed to appear before the special examiner having charge of the investigation.

J. A. C. Polkville, Ky.—Apply to the Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D. C., for a copy of the act of Feb. 24, 1867.

G. A. C. New York City, N. Y.—Under the act of June 27, 1890, all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who served not less than 90 days in the war of the rebellion are entitled to pension if they have little or no property, and support their own labor. If the death of the soldier or sailor can be shown to be due to the service and line of duty, the widow is pensionable without regard to the length of service and her financial circumstances.

Delphi, Ind.—The act of Dec. 21, 1893, requires that the pension of a pensioner of any reduction or termination of pension shall contain "a full and true statement of any charges or allegations" upon which the proposed action is based. This does not mean necessarily "copies" of the "charges or allegations."

L. H. S. Natchez, La.—You should hear from the Pension Bureau within a month or two after the special examination is concluded. If rated for total deafness of one ear and severe deafness of the other, you will be entitled to \$25 per month. If rated for total deafness of one and slight of the other, the rate will be \$20. The addition of other disabilities will make no difference in your rate, unless, perhaps, if rated at \$20 on deafness, you will be disabled by your combined disabilities in a degree equivalent to the loss of hand or foot, and so entitled to the \$24 rate.

It is very easy now To raise a club for The National Tribune.

UNION VETERANS' UNION.

Notes of Interest Concerning Doings of the Order.

Alfred Elwood, Commander of the Department of New York, U. V. U., was born in England, Oct. 6, 1844. He enlisted in August, 1862, as Third Sergeant, Co. D, 108th N. Y.; promoted Second Sergeant, and acted as Orderly Sergeant, July 3, 1863; promoted First Sergeant Aug. 26, 1864, at Petersburg, Va.; commissioned Second Lieutenant in January, 1865; commissioned First Lieutenant, May 28, 1865, and returned to New York State in command of Co. H, and color company, and was mustered out of service in June, 1865. Of Commander Elwood's military membership in the U. V. U. there can be no question. He saw over 24 months of active service and was in the following engagements: South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Robinson's Ford, Auburn, Mass.; Bristol, Station, Blackburn's Ford, Mine Run, Morton's Ford, Wilderness, Deep Bottom, Pamunkey, Spotsylvania, Toloposky Creek, North Anna River, Jones House, Pamunkey Harbor (first and second battles), Petersburg, Strawberry Plains, Deep Bottom, Ream's Station, Boydton Plank Road, First Hatcher's Run, second Hatcher's Run, High Bridge, Farmville, and was present at Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. He was wounded at Antietam in the left breast; at Chancellorsville in the right breast, and at Cold Harbor in the chin.

Commander Elwood was mustered as a charter member of W. T. Sherman Command, 2, Rochester, in May, 1885. He was Colonel during the year or two ago; First Deputy Commander George M. Lovering, of Waterville; Second Deputy Commander S. P. La. Gros, Bucksport; Adj. Gen. J. D. Egan, Auburn; Q. M. Gen. Chas. O. Wadsworth, Gardiner; Surg. Gen. W. S. Norcross, Lewiston. The National Department Commander, Robert S. George, of Washington, D. C., intended to be present, but was unable to make arrangements, and sent a letter of regret, as did Adj. Gen. Brennan, Department Commander, W. T. Eustis, delivered a stirring address, in the course of which, after speaking of the members as "Battlefield soldiers," he said: "We are all aware that many comrades who are eligible to our ranks do not join us simply because they do not understand our aim and object; the mistaken belief is abroad that we antagonize the G. A. R. and other organizations. Let it be our duty to correct that opinion, and by our every word and act show to the world and more particularly to the veteran soldiers and sailors that we antagonize none, but we increase the interest and power of all; in other words, that we are organized upon the strongest pillar of Fraternity, having been down 'into the valley of the shadow of death' together."

Adj. Gen. J. Edwin Nye stated that the present number of commands in the Department is 17. "Although we have one less Command than a year ago, we are in much stronger condition both in number of members and interest, as the following figures will show: We had, according to the report for the third quarter last year, 433 members; gaining by muster, 85; by re-enlistment, 29; making a total gain of 108. We have lost by death 8; by discharge, 4; by suspension, 17; by transfer, 1; by surrender of charter, 30; making a total loss of 50; making a net gain up to date of 48, and a total membership in the Department of 481."

The elections resulted: Dep't Com., Geo. M. Lovering, Waterville; First Deputy Com., James Hamilton, Bucksport; Second Deputy Com., J. H. Egan, Auburn.

In a General Order dated Nov. 1, from Headquarters National Command, Washington, D. C., Commander-in-Chief Robert S. George, D. O. Drennan, Adj. Gen., General, having tendered his resignation to take effect Oct. 31, 1898, the same is hereby accepted. In accepting the resignation of the Adj. Gen., the Commander-in-Chief desires to say that he does so with reluctance, in view of the cordial relations always existing between Gen. Drennan and himself, and having been deeply impressed with the knowledge, energy, and unflinching zeal manifested by Gen. Drennan in the performance of the many and frequently perplexing duties of the office of Adj. Gen.

The resignation of Col. Hugh Stewart, Assistant Adj. Gen. of the Union Veterans' Union, has been accepted to take effect on the 24th day of October, 1898. The Commander-in-Chief avails himself of this opportunity to express his high appreciation of the energy and zeal exhibited by Col. Stewart in the discharge of his duties and his regret at parting with the services of this officer, who, however, will continue his ardent interest in the Order.

Commander George P. Foster, of Logan Command, No. 2, Department of the Potomac, is hereby appointed Adj. Gen. of the Union Veterans' Union, with the rank of Brigadier-General.

Commander D. O. Drennan, of Hancock Command, No. 1, Department of the Potomac, is hereby appointed Assistant Adj. Gen. of the Union Veterans' Union, with the rank of Colonel.

Commander S. S. Yoder, of Hancock Command, No. 1, Department of the Potomac, is hereby appointed Judge-Advocate-General of the Union Veterans' Union, with the rank of Colonel.

The 5th annual Encampment of Maine Department, U. V. U., was held at Rockland, Oct. 26, and drew as fine a looking set of men to that city as it ever had the privilege of entertaining.

The report of the Committee of Credentials afterward showed that there were 30 delegates present, who with the Past Colonels, Department officers and Executive Committee men, brought the attendance up to 82. The Department officers

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THE RELIEF CORPS.

News and Gossip of the Great Auxiliary.

John Buford Corps, of Everett, Wash., sends the good news of perfect harmony existing between Post and Corps, and good success in both patriotism and finance, having \$100 in the relief fund.

Lynche Corps, Lynden, Wash., after some delay, send word of presenting the Siskiney Home with a regulation-size flag, that it might be hoisted at half-mast on Memorial Days. The presentation speech was made by Mrs. Hilton, President. Post and Corps of Lynden work together in perfect harmony, in proof of which we can say the Post Chaplain and Corps Treasurer were recently united in the holy bonds of matrimony.

While Ellsworth Post, 2, of Vancouver, Wash., were in regular session recently, they were pleasantly surprised by a visit from their Corps, which was headed by the President, bearing aloft a fine flag, which she presented to the Post with most appropriate remarks. Many a battle-scarred veteran, surprised to find his eyes as the glorious banner was placed in G. A. R. Hall, a fitting tribute to the fraternity, charity, and loyalty of its true auxiliary, the W. R. C. Previously this Corps presented the Washington National Guards with a banner. The Post and Corps of Vancouver are working harmoniously and doing well.

PRESIDENT BAER'S WORDS.

Mrs. Libbie C. Baer, President of the Department of Wisconsin, speaking of the Cincinnati Encampment, says: "It is noticeable at every annual Encampment of the G. A. R. that less of the veterans swing into line the grand parade than there did the year before. But the heart of every true American citizen grows more and more tender with love and solicitude for these noble men, the remnant of a mighty host, who are the living representatives of the greatest war ever waged in freedom's cause."

"The Woman's Relief Corps should redouble its efforts in behalf of the veterans of '61-'65. Let us by our words and action prove that we appreciate the fact that the opportunity is given to us to stand with these living heroes, of adding to their comfort and happiness, an honor that those following us will not be privileged to enjoy."

"Corps Presidents should exert themselves to reduce their suspended-lists, some of which are alarmingly large. No member should be dropped because of inability to pay her dues. Every suspended member should be notified by the Treasurer, and, if necessary, visited by her. If the Treasurer is slack in her duty, the President should appoint a committee to investigate the matter, and to visit the delinquent members."

"The duties and responsibilities of the Spanish-American war should be induced to join the W. R. C. Our work has been largely for the boys in camp and hospital, and will still be so. In furnishing the sick with delicacies and giving aid to those who return home in need of encouragement or employment, we are doing a noble work."

President Libbie C. Baer, has been doing a splendid work in supplying relief to the sick Spanish-American war soldiers. During the past three months she has expended the value of nearly \$1,800 have been contributed for hospital use, and the work continues.

ALONG THE LINE.

Mrs. Ada C. Kimmel, Department Press Correspondent, Elment, Ill., writes: "The 10th District Convention was held at Girard with a large attendance of delegates. President Millie Burnett presided. The address of welcome was delivered by President Wiley, President Girard Corps, Melinda Ross, President of Virden Corps, responded. Department President Mrs. Carrie T. Alexander gave a short address under the good of the order. The Convention was followed by a public entertainment in the evening."

Corps 116, Streator, Ill., is active in all good work, and has paid for the reinstatement of 25 delinquent members of the Post. It has many calls for aid which is promptly given if the claimant is worthy. The President of the Corps, assisted by other ladies, serve a supper to the boys from the "front" who are home on furlough. This was followed by a reception in the evening comrades of the G. A. R. attending in a body. A number of good speeches were made, and the boys feel that, if army life was hard, the homecoming was all that could be desired.

Mrs. Sallie E. Richards, Press Correspondent, writes: "At the recent Reunion held at Central, Ill., the veterans were highly pleased with the attention shown them by the Woman's Relief Corps. The work of the Relief Corps has always been a great feature in all Reunions. This year the ladies secured a building adjacent to the speaker's stand and fitted it up with sofas, rugs and easy-chairs, and the veterans were made to feel that they were being treated as guests. A register was provided and 644 ladies registered. Past President Miller of the Woman's Relief Corps made a very interesting talk. Mrs. Alexander, President of the Relief Corps of Illinois, also made an address."

Col. E. E. Schoening reports the installation of the following corps on Sept. 7, in E. P. Lovejoy Camp, 100: W. S. Robinson, Captain; Gipson Taylor, First Lieutenant; Abraham Plump, Second Lieutenant.

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SONS OF VETERANS.

Loyal Young Men and Their Great Order.

Division Orders No. 9, issued at Tweddle Building, Albany, N. Y., by E. W. Eustis, Commander, states that applications for Camp charters have been received from Wilson, Niagara County, 40 applicants, and Canandaigua, 40 applicants. A Camp, No. 145, Rome, was duly mustered Sept. 30, by the Division Commander. The officers are: W. J. Abbott, Captain; R. E. Smith, Adj. Gen.; A. E. Audas, Second Lieutenant. Number of applicants mustered, 43. The Commander desires to return thanks to members of the Camps at Utica, Syracuse and New York Mills for assistance given him at this muster. He also thanks Commander W. J. Cramond, G. A. R., and Brothers Relye Smith, Abbott, and all who were instrumental in organizing this Camp.

The Commander further says: "A large number of Camps are in process of organization, and the correspondence at Headquarters betokens a revival of interest in every portion of the State. The circumstances connected with the organizing of two of the three Camps named in Section 1 of this Order should encourage every member. A personal letter of the Division Commander, the Commander of the G. A. R. Posts at Rome and Canandaigua was the primary cause of the formation of these Camps. If a few minutes of time spent in the writing of a letter can produce such results, how much more is to be expected through the personal application and united efforts of our faithful members. Let each Camp select one place in its neighborhood as a field of action, and commence an aggressive campaign."

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THE RELIEF CORPS.

News and Gossip of the Great Auxiliary.

John Buford Corps, of Everett, Wash., sends the good news of perfect harmony existing between Post and Corps, and good success in both patriotism and finance, having \$100 in the relief fund.